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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 3996

INFO RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 870

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BT

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 1856

*File
Shifman
Send copy to
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SUBJ: LETTER FROM SOVIET IMMIGRANTS TO SENATE RE RADIO LIBERTY

REF: STATE 47470; TEL AVIV 1827

TEXT FOLLOWS OF APPEAL LEFT AT EMBASSY B GROUP OF
SOVIET IMMIGRANTS WHO CALLED ON AMBASSADOR MARCH 20.

BEGIN TEXT. TO THE SENATORS OF THE U.S.A. SENATORS,

WE TAKE THE LIBERTY TO APPLY TO YOU AS MEMBERS OF
THE SENATE OF U.S.A. WHO ARE DECIDING TO-DAY ABOUT THE
FUTURE EXISTENCE OR NON-EXISTENCE OF THE RADIO STATION
"LIBERTY" IN EUROPE.

IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN TO YOU, PEOPLE OF
A FREE COUNTRY, HOW VITAL AND IMPORTANT IT IS FOR EVERY-
BODY BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN TO GET A TRUE AND OBJECTIVE
INFORMATION ABOUT WORLD AFFAIRS.

WE SUPPOSE THAT YOU HAVE ALREADY RECEIVED MANY LETTERS
AND REQUESTS FROM RIGHTEOUS PERSONS ALL OVER THE WORLD,
ASKING YOU NOT TO CLOSE DOWN THIS STATION. WE BELIEVE
THAT THEY ARE, AS WE ARE, WONDERING HOW COULD YOU EVEN
TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE SHUTTING DOWN OF THIS SOURCE
OF ENCOURAGEMENT AND HOPE FOR SOMANY PEOPLE!!!

MOST OF US, THE UNDERSIGNED, JUST ARRIVED FROM RUSSIA.

State Dept. declassification & release instructions on file

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WE STILL REMEMBER VERY WELL THESE EVENING HOURS DURING WHICH WE TRIED TO GET AND LISTEN TO THE VOICE OF THE FREE WORLD. SOMETIMES IT WAS VERY DIFFICULT TO CATCH THE VOICE - THE SOVIETS ARE DOING EVERYTHING TO SILENCE THE TRANSMISSION.

IS IT POSSIBLE AND LOGICAL THAT SENATOR FULBRIGHT WILL SUCCEED TO ACHIEVE WHAT THE SOVIETS COULD NOT? WE ADVISE MR. FULBRIGHT AND HIS FRIENDS TO GO TO RUSSIA AND CONVINCE THEMSELVES HOW MANY GIRLS, BOYS AND GROWN-UP PEOPLE ARE TRYING TO MAKE A RECORD OF EVERY WORD FROM THE "LIBERTY" AND OTHER RADIO-STATIONS FROM THE FREE WORLD, IN ORDER TO TRANSMIT THIS KNOWLEDGE AND NEWS TO MANY OTHER PEOPLE. AND THESE PEOPLE ARE SOMETIMES ASKING THEMSELVES AND OTHERS - DOES NOT MR. FULBRIGHT, BY HIS DESIRE TO SHUT DOWN THE "LIBERTY" FULFILL DIRECTLY THE WISH OF THE SOVIETS?

WE DON'T THINK SO MR. FULBRIGHT BELIEVES (MISTAKENLY) THAT HE IS RIGHT.

THE GENTLEMAN OR DEPARTMENT WHO SENT THE POOR ESCAPING SAILOR-BOY KUDIRA BACK TO THE RUSSIAN HELL, TOO BELIEVED AT THE TIME THAT THEY WERE RIGHT. BUT KUDIRKA IS NOW IN PRISON AND HE IS LOST FOR EVER, AND THOSE WHO SENT HIM BACK HAVE NO IDEA ABOUT HIS FATE. THEY ARE PEOPLE FROM A FREE COUNTRY, THEY CANNOT IMAGINE WHAT IT IS LIKE IN RUSSIA.

THE HEROES WHO RISE THEIR VOICE IN RUSSIA AGAINST OPRESSION AND TYRANNY WILL NOT FEEL BETTER, IF AFTER A WHILE THE MEMBERS OF THE SENATE WILL SAY "YES, THE CLOSING DOWN OF THE "LIBERTY" WAS A MISTAKE". THAT WILL NOT HELP THEM VERY MUCH. MR. FULBRIGHT MAKES A MISTAKE WHEN HE SAYS THAT THESE STATIONS ARE AN ANACHRONISM. THE CONTRARY IS TRUE, THE COLD WAR WILL INCREASE, BECAUSE NOBODY INSIDE RUSSIA WILL BE ABLE TO SAY A WORD ABOUT THE REAL AFFAIRS OF THEIR GOVERNMENT AND IN A CERTAIN MEASURE TO INFLUENCE THE LITTLE PUBLIC OPINION IN THEIR COUNTRY.

IF THINGS THAT HAPPENED IN HUNGARY, CZECHOSLOVAKIA,

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POLAND WILL BE REPEATED, WHO WILL KNOW ABOUT IT IN
RUSSIA? WHO WILL KNOW HOW MANY THOUSANDS OR HUNDREDS
THOUSANDS PRISONERS ARE ROTTING IN SIBERIA OR BECOMING
UNTHINKING CREATURES IN PSYCHIATRIC PRISONS?

NO, MR. FULBRIGHT ITS MOST CERTAINLY NO RIGHT!!

WE THEREFORE APPLY TO ALL OF YOU TO HELP STOP THE
MISERABLE INITIATIVE OF MR. FULBRIGHT TO SHUT DOWN THE
VOICE WHO GIVES TO MANY MILLIONS OF INHABITANTS IN
RUSSIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN THE
FEELING THAT THEY STILL BELONG TO THE HUMAN FAMILY.

WE BELIEVE THAT THE PEOPLE IN THE U.S.A. WILL UNDERSTAND
THAT THEY SHOULD NOT DESTROY THE CONFIDENCE OF
OTHER PEOPLES IN THE REALLY DEMOCRATIC REGIME OF THEIR
COUNTRY.

LET THE RADIO-STATION "LIBERTY" CONTINUE ITS
MISSION!! END TEXT. SIGNED BY 97 PERSONS. BARBOUR

BT

#1856